

**Hawkins, CherylA**

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**From:** Teichman, Kevin  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 08, 2017 1:30 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Sinks, Tom; Grifo, Francesca; Hawkins, CherylA; Otto, Martha; (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Your September 16, 2016, letter to Francesca Grifo re Scientific Integrity

Dear (b) (6)

I writing in response to the memorandum you sent Francesca Grifo on September 13, 2016, with the subject "Scientific Integrity failures in (b) (6)" Dr. Grifo is out of the office on extended leave, and I am acting in her place to resolve allegations of violations of the US EPA Scientific Integrity Policy (<https://www.epa.gov/osa/policy-epa-scientific-integrity>).

In your memorandum, you list two "key issues" in your allegation of violations of the scientific integrity policy. In key issue 1, you allege that a (b) (6) employee has a conflict of interest, because the employee is auditing a county program where the employee previously worked. Questions of conflict of interest are addressed by the Agency Ethics Officials. I understand from a conversation with (b) (6) Deputy (b) (6) that (b) (6) has previously conducted an impartiality analysis for the employee in question and found no indication of a financial conflict of interest or any concerns under impartiality standards.

In key issue 2, you allege that the (b) (6) "has a poor grasp of the fundamentals of monitoring and quality assurance." From a review of the materials you provided, the Scientific Integrity staff interpreted your concern as a case of a differing scientific opinion. According to IV. A. 3. of the US EPA Scientific Integrity Policy, "When an Agency employee substantively engaged in the science informing an Agency policy decision disagrees with the scientific data, scientific interpretations, or scientific conclusions that will be relied upon for said Agency decision, the employee is encouraged to express that opinion, complete with rationale, preferably in writing."

From discussions of your allegation with the (b) (6) the Scientific Integrity staff was informed that you were a member of the (b) (6). (b) (6) As a member of the workgroup, you were given the opportunity to share your perspective and concerns regarding the monitoring and quality assurance issues you discuss in your allegation. Therefore, your allegation does not appear to be a violation of the US EPA Scientific Integrity Policy.

If you have any further comments or questions, please feel free to contact me. Since you have left the Agency, I ask that you please acknowledge the receipt of this email, so I can be certain it was received.

Sincerely,

Kevin Teichman  
Backup to Francesca Grifo, EPA Scientific Integrity Official  
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